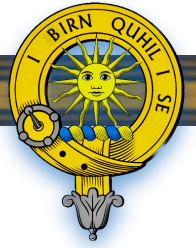




Eric Maclewis



## *The Session Pipe*

**The Session Pipe** is made by *Nigel Richard (1948-2021)*.

It is a *Scottish bagpipe* like the *Border Pipe* but this time the bag will only be inflated by mouth (*mouth-blown*) instead of bellows.

The loudness, the sound itself and a chromatic chanter (\*) are actually close to those of the *Border Pipe*.

The general look and the position of the drones (one bass and two tenors) on the shoulder remind us of the *Great Highland Bagpipe*.

The *Session Pipe* is a good way for musicians - particularly those who play *Highland bagpipe* - who wish to play an instrument close to the *Border Pipe* without learning the bellows technique; it can also be a way to practice bagpipe fingering with the real sensation of the great bagpipe but without the heavy loudness associated and of course with a reduced physical engagement.

The bagpipe is tuned in A (chanter and drones) but B flat is available too.  
Woods are mopane and boxwood (*see pics bellow*) or blackwood.

(\*) the "chanter" is the bagpipe melodic pipe; a chromatic chanter is able to play all the tones and semitones of the instrument scale.



*The drones*

So, the *Session Pipe* keeps the characteristic tone of a *Scottish bagpipe* - due to its *natural chanter reed*, with a reduced loudness.

Tuned in A, it can be easily played with guitar, whistle or fiddle within folk bands and during the famous *Celtic music sessions*.